

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Shattuck, Mrs. Allen (Agnes Swineford), 1879 - 1973, Collector

A Summer on the Thetis, 1888

PCA 027

1 album  
(115 photoprints) : b&w ; 30 x 45 cm. +  
duplicate, mounted photographs

Processed By: Staff  
Revised: 4/24/2004

**ACQUISITION:** Agnes Swineford Shattuck donated the album and 26 duplicate photographs to the Alaska Historical Library January, 1979. The album documents an inspection trip taken by Governor Alfred P. Swineford aboard the Revenue Cutter Service *Thetis* during the summer of 1888, which took four months and covered 10,000 miles of Alaska coastline. Governor Swineford collected the photographs. Other Shattuck/Swineford collections include PCA 424, MS 150.

**ACCESS:** The collection is available for viewing, however, the photographs may not be photocopied.

**COPYRIGHT:** Request for permission to publish or reproduce material from the collection should be discussed with the Librarian.

**PROCESSING:** The album is intact and the photographs are individually numbered. The album boards are interleaved with tissue. The duplicate photographs, mounted on Bristol board, are sleeved in Mylar. The photographs are numbered. The collection is stored in archival housing.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Mrs. Allen Shattuck (Agnes Swineford) was born in Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 23, 1879, to Mrs. Wilhelmina ("Minnie") Smith, who later married Alfred P. Swineford. She came to Alaska in 1886, with her family when her (step) father, Alfred P. Swineford, was appointed first resident Territorial Governor of Alaska. Agnes Swineford lived in Sitka and Ketchikan until 1901, when she married Allen Shattuck of Juneau. She lived in Juneau until her husband's death in 1960. Agnes Swineford Shattuck died in San Rafael, California, on March 15, 1973. [From: *Juneau Empire*, 3/26/1973, MS 150.]

## HISTORICAL NOTE

The *Thetis*, a three-masted, wooden-hulled steamer built in Scotland, was acquired by the U.S. Navy in 1884 to search for Lt. Adolphus W. Greely's polar exploration party. The *Thetis* made several trips to Alaska. In May, 1888, Gov. Alfred P. Swineford was among the distinguished passengers invited to visit the outlying ports of the Territory. The trip lasted four months and five days, exploring 10,000 miles of Alaskan coastline from Sitka to Point Barrow. It joined with the Revenue Cutter *Bear* to search for the missing schooner, the *Jane Grey*. The *Thetis* was transferred to the Revenue Cutter Service in 1899 to transport Siberian reindeer to Alaska. It served under the American flag for 32 years before becoming a sealer for the next 34 years. In 1950, the *Thetis* was grounded outside of St. John's, Newfoundland where it finally broke up.

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS NOTE

Gov. Swineford collected the photographs during his 1888 voyage aboard the *Thetis*. Included are views of the *Thetis* and its crew, Eskimos, seal harvesters, the *Jane Grey*, Orthodox Eastern Churches in Alaska, King Island, St. Paul Island and other Alaskan villages along the coast. The collection includes 26 duplicate photographs, mounted on Bristol board, captioned in ink. Since some of the captions differ from and provide more information than the image in the album, the information has been included in the inventory.

## INVENTORY

0. A Summer on the THETIS, 1888. [cover of album.]
1. THETIS leaving Norfolk [starboard side, sails up.]
2. [Sailors on THETIS dock; small dog, center.]
3. Indian River, Sitka [water rushing over rocks; tree-lined shore.]
4. Sitka Indians [group of eight people, all seated.]
5. Interior, Thlingit [Tlingit] Community House [three people seated near fire, center; one woman, on ledge beyond.]
6. Seal skinning on St. Paul Island [group of men skinning seals.]

7. Russian Church, St. Paul Island [exterior view.]
8. [Two men, seated, playing cards; one man, standing, beyond.]
9. [Four men, in fur hats and coats; snow shoes and guns on table, foreground.]
10. Caption from dup.: Native boys of Kings Island. Dancing. Behring Sea. [Eskimos on board ship with sailors.]
11. Caption from dup.: Native woman [and] child. Point Barrow. Arctic. [Eskimo mother with child on back; standing on deck of ship.]
12. Eskimo Village of King Island. Caption from dup.: Whale bone, walrus [walrus], skin and drift wood. This is the most wonderful sight.
13. Caption from dup.: Towing the vessel out of the ice and getting her upright.]]JANE GRAY capsized; ship on side in iceberg filled water.]
14. Crew of the U.S. Revenue Cutter THETIS [group of men on ship's deck.]
15. [Crew of THETIS gathered around opening in deck.]
16. Eskimos with labret in chin [Caption from dup.: Natives of Point Barrow. Arctic Ocean.]
- 17- Sacking Coal to be used on THETIS [men on beach with filled sacks.
18. Similar views.]
19. [Umiak on beach; turned on side for shelter.]
20. [Group of Eskimos seated on ground beneath tent-like shelter.]
21. Caption from dup.: Esquimaux familie [family] Kotzebue Sound. Arctic Ocean.
- 22- [Grassy area, foreground; small village beyond, Similar views.]
- 23.
24. [Building on left; two canoes at shoreline; people just beyond.]
- 25- [Similar views of a group of men on deck of ship.]
- 26.
27. Officers aboard THETIS [group of men on ship's deck.]
28. Old Saw-mill - Sitka [Exterior of mill, left-, house on right.]
29. Old Russian Log House - Sitka [three men at front of house, not made with whole logs.]

30. [Tlingit woman holding child; woman wearing chin labret; Sitka.]
31. [Man and boy, seated; Sitka Indians.]
32. [Three Indians in Yakutat canoe; wooded shore beyond.]
33. Salmon catch [man in checked cap beside large salmon suspended on rope; deck of ship.]
34. Three hatch skin bidarka [three people in bidarka; choppy water", mountains beyond.]
35. [Starboard side view of unidentified powered sailing ship-, sails up, choppy water.]
36. Unalaska - Russian Church [exterior view; bell tower above entry.]
37. [Group of five women and children; Alaska natives.]
38. Barabara in Aleutian Islands [exterior view, showing doorway in center.]
39. [Group of women and children on ship's deck, Alaska natives.]
40. [Men on deck; anchor chain, right center.]
41. Eskimo mother and babe aboard THETIS [men on two levels of deck beyond woman.]
42. [Launch and 2 skiffs approaching shore; two ships beyond.]
43. Eskimo with labret [man, foreground, on ship's deck; other people behind.]
44. Caption from dup.: Indian interpreter for Gov. Swineford, 1888. Arlinga of St. Michaelis [Michaels]
45. [Group of Alaska natives and men from THETIS seated on rocky ground.]
46. Oomiak or bidarka - open skin boat [boat near shore with load of people.]
47. One hole skin bidarka [man in bidarka, foreground; buildings on shore beyond.]
48. View of Sitka - showing castle [view from water; Baranov Castle, left of center.]
49. Sitka Indian Village [distant view from water; village on left.]
50. [Sailor on deck, left; water and hills beyond.]
51. Sitka. 1888 [view from shore with crescent Bay, center; buildings beyond.]

52. [Path through wooded area to Indian River, Sitka.]
53. [Close-up of waterfall, Sitka.]
54. [Man rowing, foreground; Sheldon Jackson school buildings beyond.]
55. Queen Charlotte's Sound, British Columbia [view of waterfall from ship.]
56. [Group of Tlingit Indians on porch of small wooded buildings.] Caption from dup.: Natives of Yacutat [Yakutat] S.W. Alaska
57. [Interior of Tlingit house; two people seated on floor.]
58. [Row of small wooden houses, with people gathered at the front of one. Canoes on the beach in foreground. Probably Yakutat, though not identified in photo.]
59. [Alaska native man in fur coat; young native boy on left.]
60. Caption from dup.: Log cabin at Port Edgars. Inhabited by prospectors going to the Copper River, Alaska.
61. [Group of Alaska natives in front of log building.]
62. [Group of children and one woman in room on board ship.]
63. [Face of unidentified glacier, right; mountains, left.]
64. Close-up of face of unidentified glacier.]
65. [Small group of barabaras along shore; unidentified location.]
66. [Face of unidentified glacier; hills on either side.]
67. [Unidentified village on right; mountains beyond.]
68. Unalaska [view of village from water.]
69. Caption from dup.: Skinning seals.
70. Caption from dup.: Separating and killing seals.
71. Caption from dup.: Killing of the 2 year old seals.
72. Caption from dup.: [?] seals to killing ground.
73. [Group of four young Alaska natives.]

- 74. Russian church at St. Paul [exterior view; clock in steeple.]
- 75. Barabaras at St. Paul Seal Island [front view of two sod houses.]
- 76. [Man wearing fur hat and coat seated behind table on which there are snow shoes and rifles.]
- 77. [Dwelling on King Island; people, left foreground.]
- 78. [Unidentified village; Russian Orthodox church, left; other buildings, center and right.]
- 79. A Visit to the THETIS [group of Eskimos on deck of ship.]
- 80- [Similar views of men on deck of ship.]
- 81.
- 82. [Men working on ship's deck.]
- 83. [Two birds hanging against board.]
- 84. [Men loading sacks of coal on skiff for use on THETIS.]
- 85- Caption from dup.: Natives of Kings Island trading at Port Clarence.
- 86. Caption from dup.: Natives of Port Clarence. Behring Sea.
- 87. Caption from dup.: Native girl of Kings Island [King Is.]
- 88. [Row of barabaras and caches at unidentified location.]
- 89. [Tent with a man beside it and two people in tent opening.]
- 90. Skin tent [Eskimo family seated on ground to right of tent.]
- 91. [Buildings of small village with Russian orthodox church left of center; graveyard with crosses, foreground.]
- 92. [Group of people beyond row of grave markers.]
- 93. [Crew loading THETIS.]
- 94. [Part of THETIS crew with coffin; cross leaning on coffin.]
- 95. [Crew of THETIS on deck of ship.]
- 96. Sitka Harbor - USS PINTA [PINTA, right; water and wooded land, left and center.]

97. [Sitka Harbor with Mt. Edgecombe in background.]
98. Sitka Sawmill [mill on left; houses background.]
99. [Sitka from the water with Baranov Castle left of center.]
100. Caption from dup.: Expedition to Nushagak. Starting from Bristol Bay, Alaska (Behring Sea) [Gov. Swineford, left, beside steam launch; men in and beside launch; men in skiff, right. Identified on duplicate in collection. Some names illegible.]
101. Barabaras - Eskimos [family of Eskimos and a member of ships crew in front of native house.]
102. [Men on rocky shore and in skiff and steam launch.]
103. [Natives on beach at Cape Prince of Wales.]
104. [Unidentified village; Russian orthodox church, center, buildings on either side.]
105. Interior - church at Belkofsky; Father Andromik [Alter of Russian orthodox church; Father Andronik, right.]
106. St. Paul - Pribiloff Island [men on beach beside upside-down skiffs; village buildings beyond.]
107. [Alter of Belkofsky Russian orthodox church; Father Andromik, right.]
- 108- [Similar views of the hillside houses of Eskimos on King Island.]
- 110.
- 111- Visit to the THETIS. (Caption from dup.: Natives of Kitzebue Sound. Arctic Ocean. Trading on board U.S.S. Thetis.)
112. Caption from dup.: Esquimaux traveling southward from Point Barrow to Cape Hope.
113. Barabara - Eskimos [groups of Eskimos beside doorway of native house.]
114. [Man standing on hull of capsized ship; icebergs in water.]
115. [Group of people on beach at Ft. Alexander (Nushagak.)]
116. USS THETIS decorated. Feb. 22, 1888 [ship at dock; flags flying.]
117. [Group picture of THETIS crew.]
118. [Officers of THETIS on ship's deck.]